THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (c) There is no directive to STC for market intervention in the auction commenced by Tobacco Board in Andhra Pradesh.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Increase in Import

1079. SHRI BRATIN SENGUPTA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) which are the items the imports of which have been on the increase for the last three years;

(b) from which countries we are importing them; and

(c) what arrangements are being made to produce those items indigenously?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) Out of the principal commodities of imports, the items which have shown a positive growth during last three years are: Pearls precious and semi-precious stones, dyeing and tanning material, chemical products, manufacture of metals and gold and silver.

(b) The major suppliers of these commodities are as under:

Name of the Commodity	From where imported
Pearls precious and semi-precious stones	Belgium, UK
Dyeing and tanning material	Germany, UK
Chemicals products	USA, Germany
Manufactures of metal	Japan, USA,
Gold and Silver	Switzerland, South Africa

(c) Imports are guided by requirements of domestic industry and domestic production depends on a number of factors such as availability, cost of production and comparative advantage.